

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 08888 140938Z
ACTION PPTE-00

INFO OCT-01 SCA-01 ISO-00 /002 W
----- 122331 /20

R 140900Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5539

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CPAS, PL
SUBJECT: PROPOSED REVISION OF U.S. PASSPORT IDENTIFYING DATA

REF: A-5619

FOR SCA: PLANNING AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS UNIT

1. SUMMARY. THE GOP SAID INFORMALLY THAT ELIMINATION OF BIRTHPLACE IN US PASSPORTS WOULD CREATE NO PROBLEMS. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES; HOWEVER, THAT THERE COULD BE AN INCREASE IN DUAL NATIONALITY PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MFA HAS INFORMED US THAT THE GOP WOULD RECOGNIZE A US PASSPORT (WITHOUT A LISTING OF PLACE OF BIRTH.) THE GOP DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY PROBLEMS OR DELAYS FOR TRAVELERS PRESENTING SUCH PASSPORTS.

3. IN SPITE OF THE POSITIVE RESPONSE ABOVE, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE ELIMINATION OF THE PLACE OF BIRTH FROM PASSPORTS WOULD BE ILL-ADVISED. A POLISH-BORN USC WHOSE BIRTH IN POLAND IS NOT NOTED IN HIS PASSPORT COULD BE LULLED INTO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY WHEN HE TRAVELS ABROAD. IF POLAND STILL CONSIDERS HIM A CITIZEN, ANY EFFORTS TO KEEP HIM WITHIN POLAND OR TO TREAT HIM AS A CITIZEN, RATHER THAN AS A U.S. TRAVELER, WOULD BE MUCH MORE OF A SHOCK AND A PROBLEM IF THE USC NAIVELY BELIEVES HE WILL ESCAPE DETECTION WHEN RETURNING. THE PROTOCOL TO OUR CONSULAR CONVENTION WOULD PROTECT MOST SUCH PERSONS, IF THEY HAVE BEEN ISSUED POLISH VISAS, BUT PROSECUTION ON TRUMPED-UP CRIMINAL CHARGES WOULD REMAIN A POSSIBILITY. NATIVE-BORN USCS WITH SLAVIC SURNAMES UNCLASSIFIED

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COULD BEGIN TO HAVE PROBLEMS IN EASTERN EUROPEAN

COUNTRIES WHERE SUCH NAMES ARE COMMON, IF THE AUTHORITIES
DECIDE THEY SHOULD EXAMINE MORE CLOSELY THE VITAL DATA
OF ALL U.S. PASSPORT BEARERS IN AN EFFORT TO DETECT
THEIR OWN CITIZENS (OR FORMER CITIZENS).

BROWN

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NNN

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Disposition Event:
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